

Black Leader Assisted FBI's Anti-King Effort, Files Show

WASHINGTON (UPI) — An unidentified black leader apparently worked with the FBI in the 1960s in an effort to remove Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from national prominence in the civil rights movement, according to just-released FBI files.

The secret office files belonging to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover were obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request made by the Center for National Security Studies, a private organization.

They "reveal the extent to which King and his close associates were perceived as a threat by the

FBI and kept under government surveillance during the five-year period before King's assassination" in 1968, the center said.

It said, for instance, a Dec. 1, 1964, interoffice memo to William Sullivan, then No. 3 in the FBI hierarchy indicated "the FBI and a black leader apparently worked together in an effort to eliminate King."

The name of the collaborator was blanked out in the released document.

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"(Blank) stated to DeLoach (another top FBI official) that he was faced with the difficult problem of taking steps to remove King from the national picture," a copy of the memo showed. "He indicates in his comments a lack of confidence that he, alone, could be successful. It is therefore suggested that consideration be given to the following course of action:

"That DeLoach have a further discussion with (Blank) and offer to be helpful in connection with the problem of removal of King from the national scene."

The memo then suggested that (Blank) get together with black leaders such as James Farmer and labor leader A. Phillip Randolph, and "on a highly confidential basis could brief such a group on the security background of King." The briefing would include "the use of a tape, such as contemplated in your memorandum, with a transcript for convenience in following the tape, (and) should be most convincing."

"This might have the effect of increasing the stature of (Blank) who is a capable person and is ambitious," it said.

The Senate intelligence committee reported in 1976 that the FBI had "bugged" hotel rooms used by King, allegedly recording meetings he had with women.

With the purpose of "destroying his marriage," the Senate report said, the FBI mailed King a copy of the recording, with an accompanying note "which Dr. King and his advisers interpreted as threatening to release the tape recording unless Dr. King committed suicide."

Another document made public Sunday referred to the Sept. 9, 1964 "monitoring" at Atlanta of a conversation between King and Muhammed Ali, who was then facing federal draft evasion charges. In another document, Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach gave Hoover blanket au-

thority to carry out electronic surveillance in his absence without prior authority as was required at the time. King was shot and killed in

Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, pleaded guilty to the murder and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

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FBI Bugged SCIC Headquarters

ATLANTA — The FBI bugged the Atlanta headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1963 until 1965 when, according to FBI documents, it was decided the eavesdropping could prejudice the prosecution of Civil Rights leader Hosea Williams.

Williams was investigated in connection with several car thefts but never charged.

Collier Trophy Found in Park